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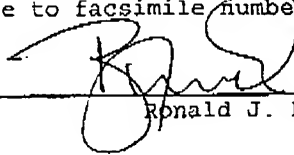
FEB 23 2009

PATENT  
NON-FINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/521,439 Confirmation No. 9055  
Applicant : Michio MINESHIMA et al.  
Filed : January 14, 2005  
TC/A.U. : 3763  
Examiner : Christopher Koharski  
Dkt. No. : NPR-159  
Cust. No. : 20374

I hereby certify that this paper is being  
facsimile transmitted on February 23, 2009,  
to the United States Patent and Trademark  
Office to facsimile number (571)273-8300.



Ronald J. Kubovcik

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 22, 2008

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 23, 2009

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated August 22, 2008. A petition for a three-month extension of the period for responding to the Action is being filed concurrently herewith.

Please amend the application as directed below and consider the remarks that follow.

P:\02-09\npr-159-pto-resp-08-111 wpd